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**ENDOSCOPE**

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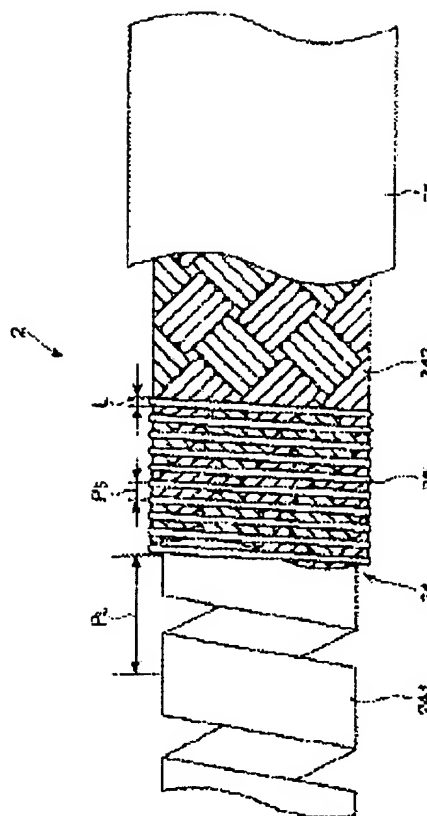
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**Abstract of JP2004223104**

**PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED:** To provide an endoscope capable of more stably performing various types of operations such as the operations on the biological tissue or the like, while followability to the lumen and elasticity against bending are maintained.

**SOLUTION:** An insertion part flexible tube 2 of the endoscope comprises a core member 24, which is constituted of a spiral tube 241 formed by winding a strip material spirally and a net tube 242 formed by braiding metal or nonmetal threads and arranged around the periphery of the spiral tube 241, and an outer skin covering the periphery of the core member 24. A part of the insertion part flexible tube 2 is further provided, in a longitudinal direction thereof, with a shape maintaining member 26 for maintaining a curved or bent shape of the insertion part flexible tube 2. The shape maintaining member 26 comprises a linear body winding spirally around the periphery of the core member 24. When the pitch of the linear body is  $P < SB > S < /SB > (mm)$  and the pitch of the spiral tube 241 is  $P < SB > L < /SB > (mm)$ ,  $P < SB > S < /SB > / P < SB > L < /SB >$  preferably satisfies a relation of 1/100 to 1.

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